

## Heritage Areas

### Groundwork Green Team Providence, Rhode Island

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Roger Williams National Memorial, and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program worked with Groundwork Providence, a nonprofit environmental organization, to provide opportunities for kids in Providence, Rhode Island, to learn about parks and park stewardship. The summer program included canoeing, water quality testing, river cleanup, trail building, learning about the history of the industrial revolution powered by the Blackstone River, Roger Williams, and religious freedom in America. Similar Green Team programs were sponsored by the RTCA in Lawrence, Massachusetts; Yonkers, New York; Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Elizabeth, New Jersey.



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### Revitalizing the Riverfront Yuma, Arizona

Yuma grew up along the Colorado River, and then grew away. Much of the riverfront ended up empty, overgrown, or just plain dilapidated. But that's starting to change with a riverfront revitalization that will celebrate the city's history and bring residents and visitors back to the water's edge. The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area provided critical early support and planning expertise to help get the Pivot Point development underway. The name itself is a nod to the area's history. In the 1800s, the railroad bridge



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that crossed the Colorado would swing open—pivot—to let steamboats pass. While the bridge is gone, and the river much smaller, the pivot point lent its name to the project, and its remnants will help explain Yuma's story to what is hoped to be a growing heritage tourism market. The \$80 million project located within the Yuma Crossing National Historic Landmark is following design guidelines crafted by the heritage area and its partners.

### Joy Ride Detroit, Michigan

Since it earned the distinction in 1919 of having the first three-color traffic light in the nation, Woodward Avenue in Detroit has been serious about cars. It was where teenagers went "Woodwarding" in the family car, muscle cars flexed their good looks, and cars and car lovers went to be seen. By the 1970s, cruising had downshifted only to be brought back in style in 1994 with the Woodward Dream Cruise, which today draws 40,000 cars and more than 1.5 million people from around the world. MotorCities National Heritage Area, Ilitch Holdings, the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and *The Detroit News* collaborated to extend the spirit of Dream Cruise and celebrate the city's auto heritage. The result: *Cruisin' MotorCities*, an autotourism festival that was a week-long prelude to this year's Dream Cruise. Running August 9-18, the event offered car shows, rides in Model Ts, tours, boat rides, kid's games, and other activities downtown and at the new AutoFair at the Michigan State Fairgrounds. Plans are underway for an even bigger event next year.

**Left:** The once neglected Yuma, Arizona, riverfront is showing signs of life thanks to the work of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area.

### National Honors for Erie Canalway

The American Planning Association honored the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's Preservation and Management Plan with the organization's top national planning award in 2008. Hailed as a model for those involved in heritage tourism and historic resources preservation, the award acknowledges the plan's innovative approach to preservation and its attention to the need to energize and enhance the strength of the communities the canal connects.

Winning photographs from the Erie Canalway Photo Contest are testament to the rich history and beautiful scenery found along the 524-mile canal, America's most famous man-made waterway. LEFT TO RIGHT: MIKE BIELKIEWICZ, JOE CAREY, KATHY EICHORN, L.A. MATTESON





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Kids in Providence, Rhode Island, learn how to care for parks in the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (and opposite page, top).

### Visit History

Richmond, Virginia, and Augusta, Georgia, are the two latest cities to have their history featured in the National Park Service's *Discover Our Shared Heritage* travel itinerary series. The online guides highlight spots listed in the National Register of Historic Places and are created in cooperation with local partners. For the Richmond itinerary, the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources worked with the National Park Service to include 87 sites. The Georgia guide was developed with Historic Augusta, Inc., the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources with funding from the City of Augusta and the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau. Also released in 2008: an itinerary on American Presidents.

 [www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/travel)

### Places Teach!

The National Park Service's *Teaching with Historic Places* program uses National Register-listed sites to create lesson plans for teachers. The award-winning results are an online series of now 135 lesson plans. In the latest, *The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House: African American Women Unite for Change*, students meet Bethune and learn how she and the organization she founded promoted political and social change for African American women.

 [www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/twhp)

